

## **Lecture Notes:**

### **#5 Lecture Analysis: Manly P. Hall “HP Blavatsky and the Secret Doctrine”**

These notes are intended to accompany my Youtube lecture (lecture #5), which analyzes Manly P. Hall’s classic lecture on Esoteric Philosophy titled “Helena Blavatsky and the Secret Doctrine”.

## **Intro and Main Themes of Lecture**

### **Intro to Lecture #5:**

This lecture continues our series where we’ve been attempting to build out a framework concerning the topic, “**What is Philosophy?**”

- Lectures #3, #4, and now this one, #5, are all fundamentally concerned with the attempt to define and understand the concept of “Philosophy”.
- Our **focus** is to **develop a working definition of Philosophy** that allows us to actively understand it, utilize it, and benefit from its use in our lives.

### **Setting the stage for what we’re trying to accomplish:**

We live in an age that is well characterized by the **Tower of Babel** allegory in the Bible: there is a **confusion of tongues**. Words do not have common meaning; people don’t have shared understanding of most essential truths of Life.

- **Philosophy** is a case study of this - a word that many people understand in different ways and come to different conclusions about.
- There is no attempt to resolve the situation: Philosophy is treated as a **broad category** of a thing in which no consensus is believed to be possible to attain.
- What we’re left with is an “**agree to disagree**” situation. In this state, it has no value - its meaning is lost amid argument and confusion.

I think this quagmire is the result of a false assumption: that there is no actual “gold Standard” by which people’s statements about Philosophy can be evaluated. Can someone say anything and call it “Philosophy”? Or does what they say have to fall into a certain pattern in order to qualify.

- People settle on the conclusion that there’s no hope of evaluating people’s arguments according to an objective standard. **I disagree**. There is a “Gold Standard” for how the concept should be interpreted and that standard was established by the person who first coined the word.

- The term “Philosophy” was actually invented at a time and place for a precisely-intended purpose. It was intended to mean something and we must rediscover what that is.

So: the Key is to understand that Philosophy was invented by a person for a purpose. That person was Pythagoras, who operated a school during the era around 600 BC. This person, existing at this time and place, invented the word in order that it mean something to his students: it gave them an image of what they had to become.

- Here’s my take: in order to qualify to be a Philosopher, one must understand and then put into practice a system that is in alignment with what he originally taught.
- In this lecture series/paper, my goal has been to offer a framework of Philosophy that I have come up with which I think resonates with the original tradition of interpretation that the Pythagorean sect that first cultivated.
- In future lectures/papers/and maybe a book or two, I will go more into the specifics of the Pythagorean framework as I have come to understand it. I’m not claiming to be a master of it by any means, and I’m not a member in any society or organization that pertains to have any connection to the Pythagorean sect. Rather, I’m merely someone who has studied this system and who thinks they understand the fundamentals of their approach to Philosophy. What I have to offer is my interpretation of what I think their approach was.
- If you can keep this framework in mind, you can build off it - treat it like a foundation or starting point upon which a comprehensive framework of Philosophy can be assembled. In other words, this is a solid and useful framework of what Philosophy is and how it can be of service to you: take it in, absorb it, think about it, compare and contrast it within your current framework, and assess what you can learn and take away from the framework I have constructed and am going to present to you.

### **How this lecture relates to this series on Philosophy**

In this Lecture, we’re going to break down how two modern descendants of the Pythagorean tradition - Helena Blavatsky of the 19th century and Manly P. Hall of the 20th - analyzed and interpreted Philosophy.

- These two figures have been the two central teachers in my life in terms of instructing me on how think about Philosophy. They are also the two giants of the field: almost everything we know about Esotericism today has been impacted and transformed through what these two great minds had to teach us.
- Specifically, in today’ analysis, we’re going to analyze a lecture Manly P. Hall did concerning Helena Blavatsky, where he overviews her life and work and then utilizes this information as a platform upon which to discuss and overview the essential framework of Esoteric Philosophy that he, Madame Blavatsky, and many others within a long line of tradition have advocated and taught - this lineage stretching back all the way to the original Pythagorean sect.
- The implication is that the Pythagoreans taught a doctrine that is in agreement and harmony with the systems of Esoteric Philosophy that Helena Blavatsky and Manly Hall gave to us. They are representatives and ambassadors of the “Golden Thread” of “True Philosophy”, in other words.

### **Overview of Manly Hall’s Methodology in his Lectures about Philosophy.**

Before jumping into today's analysis, which is centered around an analysis of Manly Hall's lecture "HP Blavatsky and the Secret Doctrine", I want to overview Manly's methodology in how he communicates to his students his teachings on Philosophy.

- Manly's method is to offer the listener an opportunity to hear how a "true" philosopher analyzes the world. I say "true" because he is a Philosopher in the tradition of Pythagoras, the figure who first coined the word.
- Mr. Hall's usual method is to pick a topic, discuss it, and then offer a Philosopher's interpretation of it. His interpretative analysis of whatever subject he's working with is always grounded in a central framework of Philosophy that is a masterful synthesis of what Philosophy is, what it means, where it comes from, why it exists, and what its destiny and purpose is.
- So in a typical lecture, Mr. Hall will pick a topic and then use that topic to communicate to you the essentials of Philosophy. His lectures are really always about Philosophy, no matter what the topic is. The student, while becoming informed about a particular topic, will also get to observe and learn how a true Philosopher of the tradition of Pythagoras and Plato would approach and analyze a topic. The topic of discussion, in other words, is just an platform for a discussion of Philosophy to take place.
- In this way, the student gains critically important information and insight that they can put to practical use in their quest to ascend the Philosophic Ladder - the disciple learning the proper way from the Guru.

### Segue:

To start things off, the **first clip** I want to play is one where Manly Hall reads a quote from the *Secret Doctrine*, Blavatsky's masterpiece, describing its main objectives. As he does so, keep in mind that these same objectives of Blavatsky's are also ones that he shares and pursues in his own work

- i.e. Blavatsky and Hall are part of the same lineage of Philosophical practice: her central book is titled "The Secret Doctrine"; his is "The Secret Teaching". The fundamental premise and main line of argumentation is essentially the same between the two.

### Clip 1. An Introduction to *The Secret Doctrine* / Esoteric Philosophy

"The aim of this work may be thus stated:

- **a.** To show that Nature is not just a fortuitous concurrence of atoms
- **b.** To assign to Man his rightful place in the scheme of the Universe.
- **c.** To rescue from degradation the archaic truths which are the basis of all Religions.
- **d.** To uncover, to some extent, the fundamental Unity from which they all spring.
- **e.** To show that the Occult side of Nature has never been approached by the Science of modern civilization."

### Analysis:

The essential aim of the SD - and of Esoteric Philosophy or “True” Philosophy in general - is to reveal three truths -

- 1) The Unity of God;
- 2) The Brotherhood of Man;
- 3) The existence of a secret method by which the latter can be united to the former.

These are the fundamental concerns of not just Blavatsky but of Esoteric Philosophy in general: they are three fundamental principles upon which all systems of “true Philosophy” have been constructed.

- For this reason, they are shared in common by Hall, Blavatsky, and a host of others - i.e. by everyone who represents the tradition of Philosophy that descends directly or indirectly from Pythagoras, Buddha, Lao Tzu, and the other teachers who taught within the age of World Philosophy (~600 BC).

### Segue:

From here Mr. Hall moves into a discussion of the epistemology of Blavatsky’s work: where did her ideas come from and who were her influences? If she’s part of a lineage, who did she draw from?

### Clip 2. Intro to Secret Doctrine

The Secret Doctrine requires a monumental effort to decipher and understand.

- It has to be read many, many times and studied very carefully.
- One must make an effort to overcome semantic problems: she may introduce and use a word or concept in a different context than the way you are normally used to.
- To decipher the text, you must stay disciplined in staying within the framework she is building.

*The Secret Doctrine* is built upon a foundation whose underlying themes can be found in all the great religious and philosophical teachings of antiquity.

- Particularly those of ancient civilizations inhabiting the Mid-East and Far-East regions of Eurasia.

### Clip 3. Epistemology of the Secret Doctrine: what are its intellectual influences?

Many persons have tried to work out what the **Epistemological basis** of her presentation of the Eastern tradition of Philosophy might be.

- Blavatsky has stated she is inclined to Buddhism...
- ... but this would be “**Esoteric Buddhism**” and not the normal “Exoteric Buddhism” that most are familiar with today.

Overall, Blavatsky’s “Secret Doctrine” is grounded in the Eastern traditions of Esoteric Philosophy and is not solely confined to the Buddhist branch of these teachings alone.

- Her primary references are to Buddhism and ancient Hindu philosophy

- Upon this foundation, she references both Chinese and Western (Chaldean; Greek) systems of Esoteric knowledge

#### **Clip 4. Epistemology of the Secret Doctrine, pt. 2**

Sources of knowledge that were incorporated into *The Secret Doctrine*:

- American Indians
- Native Civilizations of Central America
- The mysterious regions of Western Asia
- Esoteric philosophic sects of Tibet
- The learned Yogis and Vedantic scholars of India
- The Moslem world
- The Christian world
- The Buddhist and Brahmanic worlds

Everywhere, Blavatsky was able to find the existence of a common Esoteric doctrine concerning the fundamental Truths of Life and Existence.

#### **Analysis:**

These connections that Blavatsky makes can be sourced and confirmed. One can go into the literature of the Philosophical sects existing all over the world and work out whether the basic pattern of ideas Blavatsky advocates is in alignment with the ideas advocated by these groups.

- One will find that they do. It is for this reason that I and many others consider Blavatsky - and also Hall - to be legitimate representatives of "True" Philosophy as it was anciently understood and practiced. They are modernizers, not inventors.

#### **Segue:**

Here we come to a more controversial aspect of our epistemological analysis of Blavatsky's work:

- Blavatsky wrote two main books during her life - *Isis Unveiled* and *The Secret Doctrine*. Along with *Key to Theosophy* and dozens if not hundreds of journal articles.
- Of this work, *The Secret Doctrine* stands out because she says that it was produced differently from the rest. Specifically, she claims authorship of the rest of the works but the *Secret Doctrine* she claims is not the product of her alone but rather was directly inspired and produced by a mysterious sect of Philosophic Masters from the India who were working through her to disseminate their message.

#### **Clip 5. Epistemology pt. 3 - Who were Blavatsky's teachers?**

How did Blavatsky come into contact with the sources of Esoteric Philosophy (primarily Esoteric Buddhism) that she draws from?

- What she says about this is highly controversial.
- *My take:* her statements must be analyzed from within the framework of Philosophy that she offers in the book.

As she herself states: the actual words of *The Secret Doctrine* were written by her but its contents and inspiration came not from herself alone but from a **mysterious Society of Esoteric Philosophers** whose foundation was in India / Asia.

- “This information came directly from initiated members of the secret schools of Eastern philosophy.”
- They were the source of the knowledge; Blavatsky was the vessel or instrument through which the knowledge was disseminated.
- These “**Esoteric Philosophers**” **do not act openly in the world** or reveal themselves to the general awareness of the public.
- Therefore, it is not possible for the average person to verify and identify these teachers. This is by design. *The rationale for it is explained in the doctrines of Esoteric philosophy that they teach.*

### Analysis:

One must evaluate Blavatsky’s work by what the content says and not by the circumstances and controversies surrounding the work’s production.

- If try to take purely an Exoteric look at something that requires Esoteric analysis in order to explain, then one cannot make any sense of this situation.

*My take:* her statements concerning the book’s sources and inspirations must be analyzed from within the framework of Philosophy that she builds in the book. One must analyze and evaluate Esoteric matters from a perspective that is informed about how an Esoteric Philosopher sees and evaluates the world.

- If you analyze Blavatsky’s claims strictly from a normal, “exoteric” perspective, they seem dubious.
- But if you analyze them from the perspective of the “esoteric doctrine” that many, many scholars and observers have discussed throughout history, then the claims are not outrageous. Hers is an acceptable hypothesis - it doesn’t mean its true, but its capable to being true pending the results of analysis.

I want to add: it is my opinion what is true of Blavatsky is also true of Manly Hall: he was not purely his acting and writing on his own but was also in some way overshadowed or over-souled by this esoteric Philosophic Society.

- Implication that he also functioned as vehicle to disseminate the teachings and to fulfill the purposes of this mysterious philosophical society.
- But It is not the purpose of this lecture to go into this in detail about that - so for now we’ll have to leave it at that and agree to explore that hypothesis at another time.

### Segue:

Let's now our focus onto the Esoteric Doctrine itself: this is after all Manly's central purpose in giving us this lecture: to help us build a framework for ourselves about what Philosophy is, what it means, and how it can be applied in our lives.

- In these next clips, Mr. Hall is going to give us an overview of the fundamentals of the Esoteric doctrine.

#### Clip 6. Exoteric vs. Esoteric:

- a) There is an **Exoteric** doctrine that has arisen from an observation of the externals of things
- b) There is an **Esoteric** doctrine that has been perpetuated through a contemplation of the internal and eternal forces operating in the Universe

#### Clip 7. Esoteric Philosophy is founded in humanity's innate capacity for Mysticism.

There have always been a few persons possessing the power to demonstrate Extrasensory Mental powers.

- i.e. Mysticism is **archetypal** to our species. Every tribe had their "Medicine Man" or "Holy Man". Every great civilization of antiquity has had its **Initiatory** rites and priesthoods.
- There have always been groups of mystics carrying on experimentation in the field of **Esoteric Knowledge** (i.e. approaching internal unfoldment as a deliberate, scientific procedure)
- There has always existed groups of people who were able to break through a **Veil within the Mind** that the normal person focused purely on the outer form of things cannot break through.

The **scriptures** of the world contained within all patterns of civilization ancient and modern contain stories concerning the existence of **Prophets** and Wise Ones who communed with God.

- These were people who practiced **meditative disciplines** (ex. fasting; prayer) and received **Revelations**.

There is a substantial body of evidence indicating that man has the capacity to, through the practice of deliberate disciplines, cultivate Esoteric knowledge concerning Spiritual Mysteries.

- Through the applied use of Esoterically-held frameworks of knowledge, Man can gradually come to know and experience conditions of Consciousness / states of Being that are otherwise closed to our normal / objective / physical / sensory perceptions.

#### Clip 8. The fundamental premise of Esoteric knowledge

"In every important religion of the world ... the same essential belief has been held."

- The essence of religion is the unfolding of internal faculties by which internal / Esoteric knowledge can be attained.

- True “Esoteric knowledge” can only be engaged with through the development and release of mental powers that are latent within the average individual.

### Analysis:

Here, Mr. Hall is referencing Esoteric Knowledge like an Institution:

- it is a fundamental attribute of the human species. All members of the species have the capacity to experience it, but at any given point in history we find only a relatively small group engaged with cultivating it while the majority preoccupy their minds purely with Exoteric Knowledge
- Mr. Hall also treats Philosophy as an institution: it is the archetypal program through which humanity graduates from an imbalanced obsession with Exoteric Knowledge, which it attains from its sensory apparatus, to a gradual cultivation and utilization of Esoteric Knowledge, which is knowledge concerning Reality that is comes from within.

### Clip 9. The Archetypal Existence of Esoteric Knowledge

What we call “Essential Knowledge” - i.e. **Esoteric Knowledge**; Archetypal Knowledge - has always been known, has always existed, and always will.

- i.e. it's an Institution - a fundamental category of human life that perpetuates on the level of the collective!

### Clip 10. The Archetypal Existence of Esoteric Knowledge, pt. 2

The use of (and the knowledge of how to develop) latent capacities of Mind have always been known.

- i.e. Esoteric Knowledge is an inherent part of the operation of our species. It is “archetypal”
- Inherent to this is the idea that - at least at the current evolutionary stage of humanity - this type of knowledge is known and perpetuated by few and the majority goes through life in various degrees of subsisting without it.

Esoteric Knowledge is not openly communicated for the following reasons:

- It is the most advanced possible form of human knowledge. The most demanding to understand and master of all topics one could possibly study.
- Why? Because it is inclusive of all other forms knowledge - it is integrative and synthesizing. One must be able to think deeply about many topics in order to truly master the fundamentals of what principles govern the existence of all of them.
- It is also the most dangerous of all forms of knowledge: with great knowledge comes great power which is a great responsibility that can only be entrusted to highly self-disciplined people who are devoted to the fulfillment of Universal ends.

### Analysis:

Esoteric Knowledge is archetypal knowledge.



Esoteric Knowledge is correlated with the idea of “knowledge that comes from within”. It is an archetypal form of human knowledge because humanity innately has the capacity to undergo experiences of Consciousness that reveal this form of internal knowledge.”

- Without references to this knowledge, one can only speculate about Causes. Through mysticism and the reception of esoteric knowledge, direct, experiential knowledge of the knowledge of Causes is had.

This is why all the great Philosophic systems have had esoteric branches. (We'll get into two case studies of that in a moment.)

Here we come to an important point: can a system be properly designated “Philosophical” if it does not explicitly reference the existence of an Esoteric doctrine?

- I argue “no”. Esoteric Philosophy is actually the only legitimate form of Philosophy/ Because if your system of Philosophy does not feature this, then it lacks the capacity to integrate Ontology and Epistemology - meaning that it possesses critical faults.
- Esotericism is the critical feature that allows Metaphysical speculations to be known - for theories about them to be confirmed.

#### **Clip 11. Case Study: Buddhism (Exoteric vs. Esoteric)**

Gautama Buddha's essential teaching was divided into two broad schools:

- One Exoteric, the other Esoteric

##### **Exoteric Buddhism:**

- Contained within popularly known Sutras of Buddhism
- In these, Buddha's teaching take on tone of “strict moralism”
- He refuses to explore abstractions of Cosmogony other than to state that the final state of Existence is one of “Paranirvana”
- His concern here is the overcoming the immediate problems of mankind: human suffering and its cause and cure.

#### **Clip 12. Comparing Buddhism with Christianity**

From the very beginning of Buddhism, it is evident (to those who look closely) that there was also a second school: an Esoteric school.

- Context: In the Bible, we find a similar pattern revealed. In the New Testament, Jesus states that he teaches the multitude in parables (exoteric teachings), while to his disciples he taught certain other things. These certain other things are the inner mysteries (i.e. Esoteric doctrines) of his faith.
- In the case of Christianity, these inner teachings were held and perpetuated in secret by small communities of mystic-philosophers known as the **Gnostics**.

In Buddhism, Buddha taught his Disciples or “**Arhats**” an Esoteric doctrine.

- This set of teachings only given to the most advanced disciples who were “ready”

### Clip 13. Esotericism is the “True” Philosophy

Buddhism is therefore a living example (i.e. a case study) of the hypothesis that an **Esoteric** approach to Philosophy is **hidden** within the outer or Exoteric systems of the great Philosophical schools whose teachings that have come down to us from the past.

- There has been, and is, in the principle Religious Systems of the world, a solid tradition that goes back thousands of years, which declares that there has always been a secret or Esoteric instruction.
- This **Esoteric** doctrine covers not only the **Religious world**, but contains a full statement of the nature of the **material Universe**, its **Laws** and **energies**, and therefore covers the entire area normally assigned to Science.

Therefore, there is not only a science of Nature, but a Science of the Human species within Nature, and a Science of the Divine elements existing behind and supporting all Life within Nature.

- The so-called Esoteric tradition is **the One and Ultimate Science** - the Science of Sciences.
- Through an understanding of this Esoteric doctrine, all the mysteries of Nature that are now plaguing Scientists are solved.

### Analysis:

Quote: “Man mistakes the limits of the Universe for the limits of his own imagination.”

- We make the mistake of assuming that just because we aren’t aware of something that that something does not exist.
- The theme being discussed here implies that there is an Esoteric lineage to analyzing religion and Philosophy does exist and has always existed. Just because this may be new information to you and just because its existence is not common knowledge, it does not mean that it is automatically not true. It is a hypothesis that must be evaluated like any other.
- Extrapolate a larger lesson: you should not develop a strong opinion to anything you do not understand at a deep level. Your default position should be to treat every fact or opinion you hold as a tentative hypothesis that is available for critical analysis and comparative analysis with the conclusions (i.e. Maps) of other people.

### Segue:

- From here, let’s continue on the line of thinking that explores that idea that Esotericism or Mysticism is an inherent or archetypal aspect of the mental functioning of our species.
- As such, we should expect to find a division between Esoteric and Exoteric everywhere we look.

**Now, going deeper into nature of Esoteric Knowledge and how it differs from its opposite, Exoteric Knowledge.**

- We're going to explore the idea that Esoteric Knowledge can only be attained by cultivating and developing powers of the Mind which are present but latent within most individuals.

#### Clip 14. Esoteric Knowledge and the Collective Unconscious

Somewhere in the background of the Collective Unconscious (Jung) of Mankind is an Archetypal pattern.

- Mankind has within himself instinctive knowledge - i.e Archetypal Knowledge; Esoteric Knowledge.
- This knowledge is not accessible as long as Man's Unconscious remains a source of untapped mystery

#### Analysis:

- The existence of this Archetypal Knowledge is innate to our species! Birds innately know how to fly. Man innately knows how to know. The catch is, he also contains the capacity to not-know: Man the only creature in nature that can disobey and lose connection with the Overself of his being.
- All other creatures are exactly as they are. Man alone is confused about who he is and what his role is.
- Esoteric / Archetypal knowledge is embedded within Unconscious. It must be made Conscious by a deliberate effort of the individual.

#### Clip 15. Esoteric Knowledge Comes From Deep Meditation

Through the **contemplation** of the systems of the higher tantra (i.e. the **esoteric meditative disciplines**; these go by many names) it had been possible for the Arhats, Adepts, and Lohans (i.e. Philosophical Masters of the Esoteric disciplines) to gradually restore the story of the Universe and the story of Man.

- **Exoteric Knowledge** concerns the knowledge of **Effects**. This is what our Institution of Science investigates.
- **Esoteric Knowledge** concerns knowledge of **Causes**. This Knowledge can only be attained as an internal experience of Mind.

The attainment of Esoteric Knowledge is accomplished through the gradual practice and mastery of **Esoteric Disciplines** specifically designed to accomplish the task.

- This knowledge (i.e. Esoteric Knowledge) came not from ordinary books and was not attained purely by the handed down teachings of other peoples.
- This knowledge was attained INWARDLY through MEDITATION. (That is why it is Esoteric: it cannot be communicated because it has to be EXPERIENCED)

Esoteric Knowledge (knowledge of Causes, attained through Meditation) can only be attained through the gradual strengthening of the resources of the person to the inner contemplation of the mysteries of universal procedure.

- If these disciplines were actively followed and one's internal faculties properly opened, knowledge can come to us that is just as reliable (if not more) as that attained from the sensory world / by the methods of Science.

### Clip 16. One must open their Third Eye to know Cause

There is an **Inner Eye** which sees into the **Causes** of things, just as surely as there are **Two Eyes** by which we see into the world of **Effects**.

- The Single Eye that sees "Cause" is concerned with the **quality** of things.
- When **Man** sees with this **Single Eye**, his body is filled with **Light**.

The Eye of the Disciple / Student, if it can be internally opened, reveals the Universe of Causes.

- The moment this Universal Mystery is unfolded, one encounters a form of inner, intuitive **Esoteric Knowledge** that cannot easily be communicated.

### Clip 17. Esoteric Knowledge comes through ESP

Every teacher of Esoteric Philosophy has issues with wording: Esoteric Knowledge, is, by definition, not well suited to be described using the normal language of everyday life.

- "There is no way that we can be evenly reasonably sure that we can convey an abstract idea by means of words from one person to another. Zen Buddhism does not even attempt it."
- All communication of Esoteric Knowledge / Essential Knowledge must come through the development and unfoldment of internal mental resources.

### Analysis:

- **Esoteric Knowledge** concerns the analysis of **Causes**. This Knowledge can only be attained as an internal experience of Mind.
- **Exoteric Knowledge** concerns the analysis of **Effects**. This is what our Institution of Science investigates.
- i.e. Esoteric Knowledge must come from within and move out. This is the inverse of Scientific Knowledge / Exoteric Knowledge, which comes from the outside-in!

### Segue:

Manly Hall now focuses in on the limitation of restricting our knowledge of the world strictly to the Exoteric Knowledge produced by Science.

### Clip 18. We Mistakenly Believe that Science is Our Only Epistemological Tool

We are still locked in the belief that all knowledge can only come from Exoteric / External sources - i.e. the research projects of Science.

- Any false ideas or assumptions held by the Scientists become incorporated into their analysis of experimental findings.

- Science is thus susceptible to falling into **Groupthink** - where false assumptions and false conclusions perpetuate within lineages of misinterpretation.
- The history of Science is littered with the remnants of failed theories and false patterns of thinkings that were once fads but which have since become discarded.

### **Clip 19. Inner Experience / Religious Exploration Brings Esoteric Knowledge**

Esoteric / Archetypal knowledge, by its very nature, is not acceptable to Materialists

- Why? Because its existence is entirely hidden from the worldview / cognitive map of people who can think only in terms of the surfaces of things.

**Man is ignorant** not because he can't know, but because he **refuses to look**.

- Man is unwilling to unlearn that which is not true - i.e. he remains attached his own false concepts.
- This ignorance incapacitates the individual's ability to approach Truth.

"Man has darkened his own insight by insisting that the know, consciously, things which he does not know.

- He insists that knowledge is to be derived from other persons like himself (who also do not know)
- If enough persons do not know, this something then becomes a known fact.

### **Clip 20. Exoteric knowledge is constrained by the inherent limitations of the body and its reliance upon the physical senses:**

The final solution to the Mystery of knowledge lies in the cultivation of powers and capacities of the Mind that are now latent (ESP, etc.)

- Without these, the individual plods desperately to Exoteric knowledge
- One cannot adequately cognize Esoteric knowledge without the development of these faculties.

### **Clip 21. Scientific Analysis is limited to the Material World**

The faculties that we presently possess are not adequate for our understanding of the Causal Universe.

- Although we may be able to extend our domain throughout the surface of nature (planetary travel, etc.), man's present group of mental faculties constrains him to cognize and experience only the material domain of the universe.
- To the extent that further domains of existence beyond matter exist, Man cannot gain access to knowledge about them if he continues to insist that the only way he can know anything is if he experiences it with his physical senses.

Science can name parts of the world and correlate these parts together in terms of how these parts interact when different events and phenomena take place.

- But Science cannot get at the underlying **cause** of these “parts” or answer **why** they interact like they do because such knowledge pertains to the Esoteric knowledge of Causes.
- Because Science is constrained to utilizing information that is taken in by the senses (outside-in), it can only study the Effect or Physical form of things and cannot get at the underlying Cause or Spiritual Reality behind them.

## **Clip 22. Exoteric Knowledge / Science alone can't and won't lead us to Truth**

We cannot find the answers to the deeper questions of life by restricting our analysis strictly to observational Data from Scientific Experimentation.

- We can advance Sciences, certainly. But these remain locked on a level. -> i.e. Science gives us only one Epistemological route to investigate Truth. We need more.
- The path of Science has been to focus on ever more details and specifics of how Nature works and to ignore the fundamentals and bigger-picture ideas.

### **Analysis:**

Mr. Hall emphasizes the idea that as long as man allows himself to be imprisoned by false concepts that he maintains within his own mind, he will remain ignorant and will continue to suffer.

- The underlying purpose of me unfolding this triangulated framework of Philosophy, Religion, and Science is to try to offer a resolution to this issue. Science is important but it is not the only game in town and its not actually the leader.
- It is intended to be an instrument of Philosophy and to serve Religion by allowing us to organize our Inner Words according to the principles we come to understand about how the Outer World works.

Science by itself is inherently flawed: it is innately constrained to Exoteric knowledge. Data derived from senses. Restricted to induction.

- Religion by itself is equally flawed, as what is experienced subjectively cannot be assumed to be reflective of objective reality until that experience has been verified through an objective method.
- These experiences can and have be approached scientifically, as “depth” psychologists Jung and Grof have demonstrated.

To summarize the above: In order to get at the deeper questions of life, the two epistemological branches of Philosophy - Science and Religion - must be united.

- Science without Religion can only get at the outer surfaces of things. Beyond a certain level, it cannot penetrate.
- Man must rely on his other epistemological route - Religion - in order to answer questions about Causation. This route cultivates the reception of Esoteric Knowledge, where Knowledge of Cause can be experientially understood.

From mankind's reservoir of Esoteric Knowledge all of the critical systems of knowledge that underly human civilization were first originated.

- remember, we are implying that knowledge that arises from Within is archetypal; it is hard wired into the species; it is embedded into our Collective Unconscious - as Jung termed it.
- According to both Manly P. Hall, the great advances in human civilization (in terms of its long term evolutionary) have always been correlated with campaigns taking place within the Esoteric Philosophic Schools where more degrees of Archetypal Knowledge is gradually seeded into society.
- This phenomena is the natural growth pattern of the species - it is how our species evolves: that which is hidden in the Unconscious becomes gradually externalized to the awareness of the Conscious. This is ultimately the destiny of the species; it is also ultimately the destiny of each of us.

### Clip 23. Esoteric Knowledge is gradually “Seeded” into Society

These schools (of Philosophic Masters or “Adepts” and their disciples), at various stages of mankind’s evolutionary process, will **deliberately release** levels of this **knowledge**.

- **What is released** is dependent upon **where mankind is** in its collective development.

### Clip 24. Esoteric Knowledge is gradually “Seeded” into Society, pt.2

Mathematics, Astronomy, Music, ... - all the great teachings and codes of the world all originated as revelations of Esoteric Knowledge.

- Gradually, as mankind collectively develops into more advanced patterns of existence, these Esoteric teachings are gradually revealed / seeded into society.

### Clip 25. Mdm. Blavatsky Was An Instrument of Archetypal “Seeding” Process

According to Madame Blavatsky, the time came in the closing years of the 19th century when, due to the advances of material science, a new type of World began coming into Existence.

- The pressing issue: this new age of mankind was being built upon a foundation of **Materialistic Thinking**.
- Mankind thus required new directives at the pressing moment of collective transition.

Implication: **Blavatsky** was to be the **spokesperson** or instrument for a new wave of knowledge to be distributed.

- Her own fallibility as a person is intentional / strategic.
- To people used to evaluating things only the surface, her teachings and what she represents will entirely go over their head / pass them by.
- With those possessing “eyes to see” - who were already students of Esoteric Philosophy - Blavatsky’s “Secret Doctrine” was a landmark, groundbreaking work - one that advanced the state of mankind’s collective discourse of Esoteric Knowledge to a high degree.



## Analysis:

Manly Hall is basically saying that humankind is undergoing one vast pattern of Self-Initiation, and the keys to this Initiation process are held by sects of “True Philosophers” who have cultivated and mastered, to varying degrees, the Esoteric Knowledge that is the archetypal inheritance of our species.

- He is also noting that Blavatsky placed herself as an instrument of this program as it took place during the latter part of the 19th century, when the world had just begun its transformation that would result from the onset of the Industrial Age.

We can infer that what is true of Blavatsky is also true of Manly Hall himself - his teachings are also part of a campaign to disseminate and seed certain teachings into modern society. Both served as aggregators, translators, interpreters, and modernized of aspects of the Esoteric Doctrine which the Esoteric Schools had deemed “fit to print”.

- To reiterate: according to my analysis and interpretation, Manly Hall, like Blavatsky, was “oversouled” by a mysterious group of Philosophic Masters and, also like Blavatsky, served as willing spokesman of it.
- Blavatsky and Hall are thus members of the “**real Illuminati**”: a sacerdotal caste comprised not of greedy corporatists but highly advanced Yogis, Mystics, and Philosophers. The Bee species has its Queen Bee; the Human Species has its great institution of Philosophy, which is perpetuated and maintained by an unfolding lineage of Enlightened Masters who together for the true governance hierarchy of the species.

## Segue:

Let’s now turn our attention to what it was that was released and disseminated by these schools within the Secret Doctrine.

### Clip 26. Cosmology in the SD

What we find in *The Secret Doctrine*:

- The Cosmology of the Vedas (ancient Hindus)
- The ancient doctrines of the ancient Persians
- The teachings of the Chinese and the Buddhists

In *The Secret Doctrine*, the teachings of each of these branches concerning the **origin of the Universe** is unfolded and comparatively analyzed.

- The foundation of their Cosmological teachings centers upon the question of:

**“The possibility of a creation emerging from the absence of itself.”**

- “How does the beginning begin? How does that which is not engender that which was?”
- “Can we ever assume that there was a state in which “Nothing” existed?”



All of these speculations are brought together and synthesized in the Secret Doctrine!

### Clip 27. The Living Universe

“Out of this entire concept comes the tremendous pattern of the Living Universe.”

- “a Universe extending far beyond anything that we can conceive.”
- **“a Universe of systems upon systems”** - each in itself a “unit of consciousness”

Within this context, Unity gradually precipitates Individuality.

#### Analysis:

Can imagine why I was drawn to this mode of thinking, coming from a Systems Science background - to hear about an elaborate Philosophical approach to Cosmology that is founded upon the concept of “systems within systems” was thrilling!

#### Segue

Its important to emphasize that the teachings weren't just abstract and cosmological - they also incorporated detailed information about where Mankind fits into this grand scheme

### Clip 28. Esoteric Anthropology - The Emergence of Man

What is Mankind's role in Nature?

- Fundamental question: what is the relationship between the Body and the “Person” within?

### Clip 29. Evolution and Involution

Esoteric Anthropology is based upon the marriage of the concept of **Evolution** with its inverse concept, that of **Involution**.

- Involution: the story of the Unity of Consciousness moving into the Diversity of Form.
- Evolution: the story of Consciousness within Form gradually restoring itself to a state of Unity of Awareness.

### Clip 30. Philosophy is Designed to Advance Man's Evolution

Evolution is thus a two-fold procedure

**A. Evolution by Natural Growth:** Man gradually is impelled to evolve as a survival response to the demands put upon him by Nature

- Man is destined to evolve in a direction (toward its archetype). Nature will ensure this end is met.
- This is the Path of long, painful, slow growth. The path of learning strictly through experience (i.e. touching a stove to know it is hot)

**B. Evolution by Philosophy:** Man takes his own evolution into his own hands and “hastens the process of Nature”

- The release of Consciousness from Matter accomplished by following the Disciplines of the Esoteric Schools
- These esoteric disciplines are comprised of Meditative and Contemplative Disciplines

### **Clip 31. The Goal of Philosophic Practice: the Living Resurrection**

The **goal** of Philosophy is the **release of the Soul** from its bondage to material form:

- For most, this liberation only takes place during the process of Death
- The goal of the Philosophic Disciplines is to guide the student to accomplish this release **Consciously** during Life.
- “The release of Man from Body is a **Resurrection**.”

### **Clip 32. A New World Is Possible, If You Want It**

Man will ultimately move his center of function / awareness / polarization from the physical focus to the Psychological / Soul focus

- When he does this, he enters a New World.

#### **Analysis:**

Man exists in order to attain. Man strives to know and in the end he is destined to attain that which he desires. But in between now and then is a great, often painful, process of learning.

- Man must learn to know and obey the Law. This is the Law of his own Existence - established by the existence of his own Archetype.

Man’s purpose is to know - that is why Nature has created mankind as one of its Kingdoms. What Man has to know is the Law - God’s Law; the Law that Underpins Nature.

- Man has to earn this knowledge by raising himself up to it. It will not be brought down to him and given freely - this is not “The Way”. Man cannot learn like this: he has to go out on his own like the Prodigal Son so that he may eventually return home all the wiser.

#### **Segue:**

In these final two clips, Manly Hall is going to argue this essential point:

### **Clip 33. Why Man Can’t Have Esoteric Knowledge Until He’s Earned It**

The way mankind has misused the knowledge it has to perpetuate suffering / control / greed is proof of the idea that sacred knowledge must be protected and entrusted only to those who are highly disciplined and devout in their motivations.

- Mankind cannot be entrusted with powers over energies a million times more splendid than any atomic fission or electronic process we know of today.
- We cannot be trusted as long as we remain in a state of **ignorance**

#### **Clip 34. Learn the Law. Obey the Law. Fulfill the Law.**

This bridge between the objective and subjective is guarded by an immutable, natural Law that we can do absolutely **NOTHING** about.

- If we would cross this bridge, we must **LEARN THE LAW** and **OBEY THE LAW**

Nature is not locking man away from something he deserves.

- The whole process of nature is working to accomplish this end (Mankind's Awakening).
- There are no lost souls whose ultimate salvation is actually in question.
- There is no one who is getting a "raw deal" from the standpoint of their evolving Soul nature.

If there is a perfect expression of Law behind Nature, then somehow, some way, this Law is equally perfect in how it creates Human Beings.

- **The problem of Humanity is that it departs from the Law.** Because it departs, it suffers.

The Essential Fact: **Only through supreme individual effort can Destiny be fulfilled.**

#### **Analysis:**

Important point: The whole process of Nature is accomplishing this end of Man's Awakening. In other words, it is Mankind's purpose within Nature to Know in order that It may Use.

- i.e. it is God's design that Man shall Know.
- There is an archetype behind the existence of life on earth. The fulfillment of this archetype ultimately requires mankind to evolve as a collective entity.
- What each of us leave unfinished in one Life we will come back to finish in another.
- In the long span of things, this final end is ensured. The question is: will you be dragged toward your own spiritual resurrection unwillingly through the path of suffering through experience or will you take responsibility for this growth and put yourself on the gradual path of attainment?

In Sum: In my interpretation of the concept, Philosophy is the human institution created and designed to be the Custodian of the process

- Through Philosophy, Man achieves his destined End.
- That's what it was invented to do; that's how all the great systems of philosophy interpreted; that's what Blavatsky and Hall taught, and that's what it is my mission to

resurrect for this current age: restoring Philosophy back to its rightful place as the proper governor of human life.